

Women Battle at White House

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Women peace picketers and police brawled in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue yesterday as Park Police enforced a new rule limiting the number of demonstrators in front of the White House.

The brief screaming, slugging, clubbing melee broke out as demonstrators in the Women Strike for Peace march attempted to cross police lines and move from in front of Lafayette Park to the White House.

Four demonstrators were arrested and one youth was seen lying on the pavement with blood flowing from a wound on his head.

Several women protested later that police kicked them and hammered them with billy club blows during the scuffling in which a number of policemen and demonstrators were knocked or wrestled to the street.

Traffic in the vicinity of the White House was tied up for nearly an hour with milling demonstrators, newsmen and police officers and equipment.

Two groups of the demonstrators, mostly housewives from the New York and Philadelphia areas, followed the arrested pickets to the 3rd Precinct and the Woman's Bureau.

Booked on charges of disorderly conduct at the 3rd Precinct were anti-Vietnam War demonstrators Francis R. Rocks, 22, of New York and Gary E. Rader, 23, of Chicago.

Booked on the same charge at the Women's Bureau was Mrs. Evelyn Alloy, 50, of Philadelphia, and Joyce D. Williamson, 22, of the 3400 block of 17th St. NW.

All four were released after posting a \$10 collateral bond.

The brief brawl, which left many women sobbing and complaining of being kicked and beaten by police, was set off by the first test of the National Park Service ruling which limits the number of demonstrators in front of the White House to 100.

The same rule also limits an assembly of persons in Lafayette Park to 500.

Ready for Trouble

It was apparent trouble was expected over the ruling, because many policemen were seen around the White House, and they were more strict than usual in directing the women along the march route.

The Women Strike for Peace started the demonstration in the Ellipse south of the White House where several speakers, including Dagmar Wilson, head of the women's peace movement, called for an end to the war, the bombing and the draft.

They then moved to the Selective Service headquarters in the 1700 block of F Street where 10 stern-faced GSA special policemen stood behind the locked doors and refused admittance. One officer pushed a female wire service reporter away from the door.

Gen. Lewis W. Hershey,

Selective Service director, sent word he would receive a delegation later in the day, and the demonstrators turned back toward the White House.

At 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue the protest leaders were met by a double row of policemen on the White House side of the avenue and were directed across the street.

Battle Lines Form

The women walked on the Blair House side of the street and entered Lafayette Park, where nearly 500 demonstrators found their area limited to the sidewalk in front of the park.

A green snow fence stretched along both sides of the sidewalk, preventing the women from wandering either into the park or into Pennsylvania Avenue.

At the other end of the park, at the statue of Lafayette, another heavy police line permitted only 100 women to cross the street and move into a tight walking circle in front of the White House.

The brawl broke out when the other women began pushing against the police line at Lafayette's statue.

Even though police reinforcements entered the heated battle in front of the statue and in the middle of the street, about 50 women managed to make it across. They were then stopped by a third line of policemen at the sidewalk.

The fight out of them, sobbing and angry, the women dropped to the street between the White House and the Treasury Building and refused to move.

Police called in four wagons and Insp. Alfred Beye of the Park Police announced over a loudspeaker that the group's parade permit was being revoked.

Get Arrest Ultimatum

As a result, he continued, they were in "unlawful assembly by accommodating the free use of a street. We will give you two minutes to disperse by moving to the east side of the street or we will begin arresting you for this violation.

A number of minutes passed and the seated women sang "We

Shall Not Be Moved," "Ain't Gonna Study Anymore," and "We Won't Go."

Traffic was logged at the White House and again announced:

"Those unlawfully standing in the street are arrested for interfering (blocking the street)."

At that the leaders returned to the park, which displayed to reporters torn sports coats that had been ripped from them when he was arrested in the melee.

One woman declared she would have the guts to name an officer who beat her and called her a Jew. She knew the officer's last name and knew what kind of police car was.

The day's events had begun with a talk by Mrs. Wilson who had just returned from a two-week visit to Hanoi. She said she had seen hospitals and churches that had been destroyed by American bombing and announced:

"Anxious to Stay There"

"I am not sure whether I am glad to be home or not. I was anxious to stay and fight there."

Mrs. Wilson, a woman who looks like any other mother around her, the morale of the North Vietnamese is high and that they are winning the war.

The women gave the report to the group's spokesman that they will lack an arm who burns his draft card who refuses to serve in armed forces and that they walked:

"Should they go? We would go." Back the answer was:

One young woman walked stopped and looked at her. She alleged American cities against the North Vietnamese and said:

"My husband could have been killed. He would not have been over the head."



Women demonstrating for peace sit in the middle of East Executive Avenue alongside the

White House yesterday as police prepare to move in. The sit-in followed a brief free-for-all

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